

**Former Walker Air Force Base
Restoration Advisory Board
15 October 2002**

RAB Members Present:

David Henry	USACE, Project Geologist
Kerry Hunter	Citizen
Julie Jacobs	NM Environment Department
Leroy Lang	NM Farm Bureau
Dick Smith	Citizen
Darryl Ward	ENMU-Roswell

RAB Members Absent:

Kathleen Aisling	EPA
Ron Courts	City of Roswell
Eva Gomez	Citizen
Steve Harris	Chavez County
Kay Havenor	Geologist, Co-Chair
Ken Hirst	NM National Guard
Ethyl Logan	Citizen
Raymond Prescott	Citizen
Mary Kay Samples	Citizen

Guests Present:

Eileen McBride	Sacramento District, USACE
Jerry Vincent	Sacramento District, USACE
Bob Beck	Citizen

Facilitator:

Jim Morris	Tecumseh Professional Associates, Inc.
Lauretta Dozier	Note Taker

MEETING SUMMARY – OCTOBER 15, 2002

The RAB meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10pm, with welcoming comments and introductions of all persons present.

There was not a quorum present, so votes could not be taken on any issues, including minutes of the last three meetings. *Editorial Note: It was discovered after the meeting that someone had inadvertently locked the front door of the building at approximately 7:00pm. Two members (Kay Havenor and Ethyl Logan) came to the meeting and were unable to enter the building.*

As Co-Chair, David Henry welcomed Darryl Warren, who will be replacing Richard Cervantes as the ENMU representative on the RAB.

NEW RAB MEMBER

Mr. Warren was formally nominated for membership on the RAB, and the vote was postponed until a quorum is present.

UPDATES

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

David Henry passed out a summary of his US Army Corps of Engineers Update, WAFB RAB, dated 10/15/02.

Mr. Henry reminded the RAB that Sacramento District of the Corps of Engineers has replaced Tulsa District in providing environmental project support at Walker Air Force Base. He welcomed both Jerry Vincent and Eileen McBride to the team.

TCE Plume

Atkins Engineering drilled two new wells near Hanger # 58 about two months ago. Depths of the wells were approximately 110 feet (in the upper granular zone of the alluvial aquifer) and 170 feet (into the lower granular zone of the alluvial aquifer). TCE in the upper zone was detected at 630 micrograms per liter, and in the lower zone at 5.8 micrograms per liter. This would indicate that there is communication between the upper and lower granular zones for TCE.

The table of TCE concentrations at Y-O Acres indicates only minor changes. David will check to ascertain that all Y-O Acres residents are receiving the results of testing.

Pump House # 7

The Corps has been collecting samples at Pump House # 7 for five quarters. It appears that the non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL, or free product) fluctuations in thickness correspond to groundwater elevation. NAPL is detected during summer months (during irrigation season), and is not detected during winter months when irrigation is not occurring.

This year's water levels are the lowest recorded in the five years that data has been collected in this general area.

Waste Oil Disposal Area (WODA)

Last meeting it was reported that 15 borings were conducted at the WODA site, with about 3 soil samples collected from each boring. Samples were tested for metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and polychlorinated biphenyls. No samples contained contaminants above health risk benchmarks. Two monitoring wells have been installed since the last RAB meeting. David Henry is still awaiting final reports, which would include TCE results.

The next step is to work with the State to close out the WODA site. The draft report relative to drilling and soil and groundwater samples will be ready for review within a couple of weeks, with copies going to the State.

Building 1670

Two years ago, the Corps began an investigation at Building 1670. Those investigations indicate a presence of TCE and benzene. The Corps is working with the NMED to determine what further action will be required at that site.

Project List

David Henry presented a table entitled Former WAFB Project List, which lists each project, indicating type of project, prioritization of the risk, and whether DOD action is required. He noted a few corrections needed on the table, and will bring it up to date.

Jerry Vincent explained the difference in NDAI (No DOD Action Indicated) and No Further Action required, and how DOD responds at sites with contaminants from DOD and other sources.

For DOD to NDAI a site, the State must concur with that status, and the Corps can then move toward closing out the site.

Sacramento District

David Henry introduced Jerry Vincent who discussed plans for future Corps activity at WAFB.

Jerry Vincent explained that due to a Corps realignment, Sacramento District had assumed responsibility for environmental support at WAFB. He explained that there are both potential responsible party (PRP) and non-PRP projects at WAFB.

Sacramento District has met with David Henry and with Julie Jacobs relative to the Corps plans for the WAFB project. He then presented that plan to the RAB.

Sacramento has proposed to take a step back and conduct a complete histories report (data gaps analysis). A contractor would gather all data from WAFB and put it together into a report. From that report, it could be determined what areas have sufficient information and what areas need further information. This would be done in three phases.

The first phase would include hiring a contractor and going through all data and archives and doing a site ownership operational history report for WAFB, including uses before, during, and after DOD uses. The contractor would prepare a chronological summary of all uses of the property, including users of the buildings or areas, number of people employed, activities conducted there and types of chemicals used.

The second phase would identify any gaps in the available data. Phase two would include evaluating the data and determining where the clean up efforts need to focus. Because of limited funding, efforts need to be prioritized to maximize the payback for dollars spent.

The third phase would be to have the contractor prepare a report of conclusions and recommendations. This would include a plan of where to focus for future efforts, and estimated costs to complete those activities.

Walker Air Force Base competes with 9800 other FUDS (formerly used defense sites) for clean up funding. This report will provide cost estimates needed to justify funding for cleanup efforts, and to prioritize future actions in a strategic plan for WAFB. It will also give the regulators information they need to ensure that efforts proposed at WAFB are within their regulatory guidelines and meet the needs of the general public.

In addition to the data gaps analysis, the Corps plans in November or December of this year (contingent upon funding), to sample each of the approximately one hundred existing monitor wells. Each well will be put into a GPS database, labeled, and sampled to give a baseline for groundwater conditions within the WAFB project area. Comparing this data to past sampling may confirm that some areas can be closed out, or may identify new constituents that may require more investigations. Tests will be run for a consistent, broad spectrum of contaminants.

Members of the RAB expressed strong concern over the lack of cleanup progress while the data gaps analysis is conducted. They stated that some problem areas are identified, and further investigation and treatment of those areas could proceed rather than waiting for this year's studies.

Jerry Vincent explained that the study would help avoid possibly wasting expenditures based upon incomplete information. The study should allow cost effective solutions for the contaminated areas at WAFB.

David Henry explained that there are procedures he must follow to justify expenditure of funds on cleanup efforts. The data gaps analysis and follow up work will give the Corps the information needed to prioritize, plan and justify those expenditures.

Jerry Vincent explained the Corps' roles relative to sites that are DOD's sole responsibility and those where there are other responsible parties. For sites where other responsible parties are involved, Sacramento's approach is to proceed with investigation, identify data gaps and potential responsible parties, and let the Department of Justice do cost recovery if necessary, when it goes to actual remediation.

In response to a question, David Henry stated that the treatment system is still in operation at the TCE plume.

Jerry Vincent explained that technical (non-incriminating) data gathered under the PRP program will be incorporated into the study to be done this year. This additional data may explain conditions that do not appear logical based upon data previously available to David Henry.

RAB members expressed strong concern that the data has not been compiled properly by the Corps during the last five years, and that the process will halt for a year while that is being done. David Henry explained that the Corps does not have staff to analyze the data. The data gap analysis will provide a contractor that can focus on compilation and analysis of the data.

RAB members expressed concern that while studies are going on, the people whose wells are contaminated through no fault of their own will continue to have contaminated wells. David Henry explained that the TCE plume is not adversely affecting residents at this time. All affected residents are now on city water supply.

State of New Mexico

Julie Jacobs stated that the State of New Mexico does support the work plan proposed by the Corps for the next year. The State agrees that the site has never been investigated as one whole site. This plan to look at the whole picture might help identify sources and more accurately define the contamination in the WAFB project area.

Since the last meeting Julie Jacobs has had several discussions with EPA to determine a process to close sites. They are continuing to define the process, and want to insure that all necessary parties are included. The plan is to have further discussions to decide what CERCLA process needs to be followed, and what has to be done to administratively close a site, once it has been cleaned up.

The site investigation on Building 1670 has been completed and documents have been submitted to the State. Julie Jacobs has begun review and made a site visit today.

The State reviewed the work plan for the WODA site and comments were incorporated when work was performed.

The State considers the RAB input a vital part of the environmental clean up process at WAFB. Julie Jacobs expressed concern that attendance has dropped recently, and in fact there has not been a quorum of non-regulatory members at the past two meetings. She asked if there are other persons interested in becoming a member of the RAB.

David Henry assured the RAB that their comments are important, and are acted upon. A soil gas survey was conducted and two wells were installed because of comments from Mr. Morgan at a RAB meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that Ron Courts had an unavoidable conflict for the meeting tonight.

The RAB charter allows for replacement of inactive RAB members who have not expressed an interest in continuing. There are a couple of people who have not attended and who have not responded to any communications, Mary Kay Samples, and Raymond Prescott.

After discussion, it was recommended to remove Mary Kay Samples and Raymond Prescott from the RAB. It was also recommended that Job Corps might be interested in being represented on the RAB. Darryl Ward offered to contact the Job Corps.

OPEN DISCUSSION/OPEN FORUM

There were no items discussed under this topic.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes of the meetings of January, April and July will be put on the web site in draft form, until they are formally approved.

Date for next meeting - The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2003, at 7:00pm in Room 110 of the ENMU-Roswell Campus Union Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.